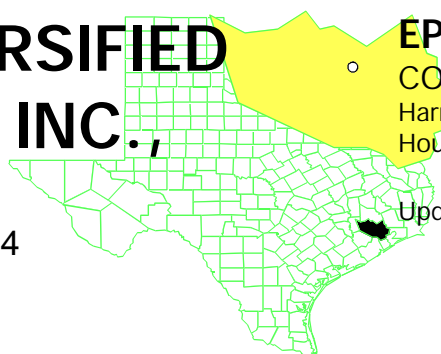


MANY DIVERSIFIED INTERESTS, INC., TEXAS

EPA ID# TXD008083404



EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18

Harris County
Houston

Updated: July 17, 2000

Site Description

Location: • The Many Diversified Interests, Inc. Superfund Site (hereinafter “MDI” or “the Site”) occupies a 36-acre tract of land located at 3617 Baer Street, Houston, Texas, and is 1/4 mile south of Interstate Highway 10, and 2 miles east of downtown Houston, Harris County. The city of Houston is located in the southeast portion of the State of Texas.

Population: • The urban population near the Site is approximately 50,000.

Setting: • Residential areas are adjacent to the east, west, and north sides of the Site. Blanche Kelso Bruce Elementary School is located adjacent to the west side of the Site across Bringhurst Street. Industrial areas are adjacent to the south side of the Site.

• Operations at the site began in 1926 under Texas Electric Steel Casting Company (TESCO). The TESCO foundry maintained two casting plants. All physical plant buildings, except one office building, were demolished in the 1990s after the plant ceased operations and filed bankruptcy.

• Extensive demolition debris and a landfill currently exist at the Site. The Site is enclosed by a chain-link security fence with signs warning of the hazardous condition within the Site.

Hydrogeology: • Harris County and the MDI Site are located in the Gulf Coastal Plain of Southeast Texas. Three major aquifers contain fresh to slightly saline waters in Harris County. These include the Jasper, Chicot and the Evangeline aquifers.

• The MDI Site is located approximately 0.5 mile north of Buffalo Bayou. The Ingraham Gully storm sewer, which collects surface water drainage from the Site and surrounding areas, empties into Buffalo Bayou (which becomes the Houston Ship Channel 3.1 miles downstream).

• The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being planned for the Site will determine the hydrology for the Site, including other Site characteristics.

Wastes and Volumes

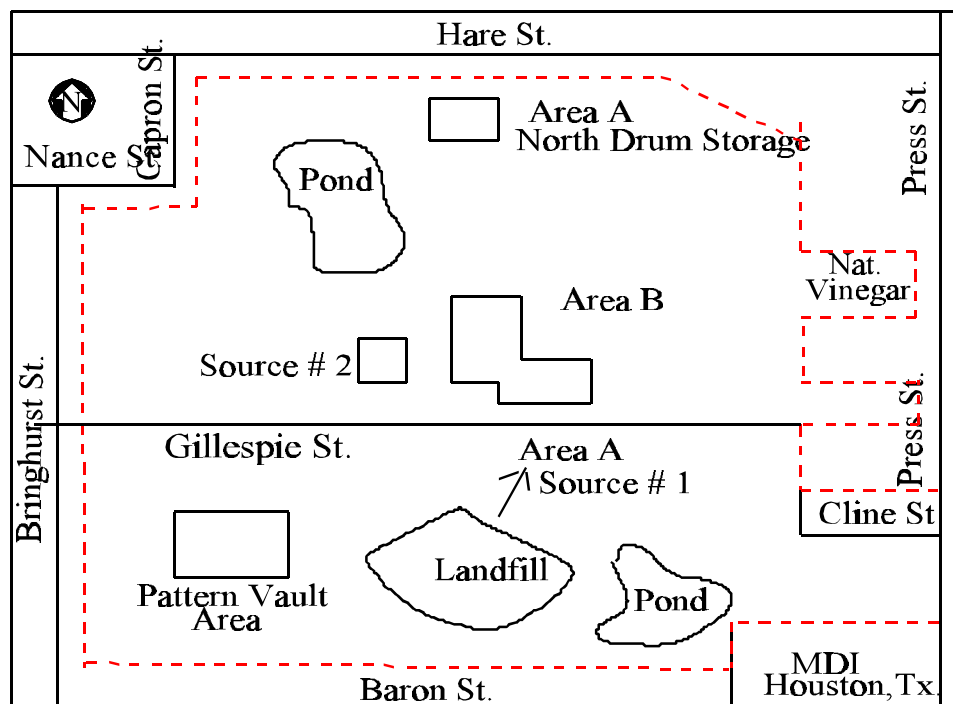
- The principal pollutants at the MDI/TESCO Site include arsenic, chromium, cobalt, lead, copper and nickel in the soil.
- Contaminated soils are located within the MDI property boundary (36 acres). The extent of contaminated soil within the Site will be determined during the planned Remedial Investigation.
- The ground water pathway and its potential contamination will be investigated during the RI.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 37.08
Proposed Date: 09/29/98
Final Date: 01/15/99
NPL Update: No.26

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- From 1926 thru 1991, Texas Electric Steel Casting Company (TESCO) conducted steel casting operations at the Site. During that time, TESCO grew to include two separate casting plants within the Site.
- During the 1980s, a portion of the Site was leased to Can-Am Resources Group (Can-Am) to operate a spent catalyst recycling operation.
- Can-Am reportedly purchased drums of spent chemicals from refineries and chemical plants and stored the drums on the leased property.
- By 1988, the catalyst recycling operations ceased and the stored drums were abandoned on the Site.
- In February 1991, TESCO ceased operations. MDI foreclosed on the Site and later reopened as San Jacinto Foundry, a subsidiary of MDI. MDI filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy in 1992 and officially closed operations in June 1992. In 1995 through early 1996, as approved by an order of the bankruptcy court, the facilities on the Site were demolished and salvaged for scrap, leaving only one office and substantial demolition debris on the Site. In the fall of 1999, the drums of spent chemicals stored on the site by Can-Am were removed from the Site.

Health Considerations:

Contaminated soil is located within the MDI property boundary.

The nearest water well is located within a 1-2 mile radius from the Site. Drinking water from this well is supplied to approximately 100 people. There is no documentation that drinking water wells in the vicinity of the Site have been contaminated by hazardous substances from the Site.

Record of Decision

No Record of Decision has been signed for this Site as of July 17, 2000
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Enforcement

- C The EPA issued “104(e) information request” letters to the various owners, operators, and/or generators associated with the MDI/TESCO Site.
- C General Notice Letters were sent to several of the owners, operators, and/or generators informing them that EPA has sufficient information linking them to the MDI/TESCO site operations, considers them to be potentially responsible parties for site cleanup, and encouraging them to enter into an Administrative Order on Consent to voluntarily participate in the removal of the more than 5,300 drums of wastes that were abandoned on the MDI/TESCO Site. No potentially responsible parties (PRPs) volunteered to participate in such a removal action.
- C On May 18, 1999, EPA issued Unilateral Administrative Orders (UAO) directing the PRPs to conduct a removal action at the MDI/TESCO Site.
- C On June 8, 1999, the EPA sent the First Amended UAO to 10 additional PRPs associated with the MDI Superfund Site.
- C Formal enforcement negotiations began on April 9, 1999 for both the removal and the RI/FS. At that time it was negotiated that the on-site “drummed waste” removal action at the MDI/TESCO Site would be performed and financed by the PRPs (PRP-lead) under the oversight of the USEPA. The drum removal work has been completed by the PRPs.
- C Enforcement Negotiations regarding the “long-term” remedial investigation at the MDI/TESCO Site resulted in a Special Notice Waiver to the PRPs regarding the RI/FS; however, this does not exclude the EPA from seeking cost recovery for the cost of the Site remediation. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has agreed to lead the RI/FS Phase utilizing federal funds.
- C TNRCC submitted a grant application to the EPA for funds to commence the RI/FS. These grant funds were awarded to the TNRCC on 9/24/99. The TNRCC is currently negotiating with a contractor to perform the RI/FS.

Community Involvement

Community Involvement Plan: A “Draft” Community Involvement Plan (CIP) to support the “long-term” Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Site was prepared by EPA Region 6. A “Final” CIP has been prepared by the TNRCC who will lead the RI/FS under a Cooperative Agreement with EPA Region 6.

EPA Hosted the following Open Houses, Availability Sessions and Workshops:

- 1/7/99: (a) General MDI/TESCO Site Status & Activities Update
(b) 5th Ward Community “Orientation” for those residents interested in Participating in the Superfund Job Training Initiative (SJTI).
- 5/25/99: (a) General EPA “Availability” Session to respond to community concerns raised at Monthly TNRCC Environmental Equity MDI Stakeholders Meetings regarding the “Superfund Process” and where we are in the “Process” regarding current activities at the MDI/TESCO Site.
(b) Status of Site cleanup negotiations and site reuse consideration.

7/29/99: Drum Removal Action Open House hosted by USEPA - provide residents with detailed information about the on-site Drum Removal Action (removal of the on-site drummed wastes, transport of the waste for off-site for disposal, and the Health & Safety Precautions to be taken). This Removal Action was conducted by the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Group under USEPA oversight.

Citizens on Site mailing list: numerous

Constituency Interest: EPA has identified the community surrounding the Site as an Environmental Justice Community. A significant percent of the residents in the neighborhood surrounding the Site speak Spanish as their native/primary language. The TNRCC has committed to publishing all fact sheets and informational materials in both Spanish and English to ensure effective communication with all citizens. The TNRCC has also assigned Spanish-speaking personnel to participate in public events relating to the Site and to respond to telephone inquiries from Spanish-speaking callers.

Site Repository: Fifth Ward Multipurpose Center/Library, 4014 Market Street, Houston, TX, 77020

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) ---

Availability Notice: Public Notice on 5/5/99

Letters of Intent (LOI) Received: Total of 3 LOIs received - 4/13/99 (Phillip J. Smith), (4/13/99) Ms. Sarah Rowles, (5/11/99) Ms. Rita Love

“Final” TAG Application Received: None To Date.

Grant Award Date:

Current Status: One “draft” Technical Assistance Grant application was received as of June 7, 1999. The EPA’s Region 6 TAG Coordinator reviewed the application and provided comments on the draft application in support of the applicant’s submission of a “Final” TAG application. As of 9/15/99, no corrected Tag application has been received by EPA.

Contacts ---

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

Remedial Project Manager (Contact for Technical Questions, Bilingual [English/Spanish]):

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Site Attorney (Contact for Legal Questions):

Mr. Keith Smith, 214-665-2157*

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State Coordinator (Contact for State/EPA Agreements):

Ms. Karen Bond, 214-665-6682*

E-Mail: bond.karen@epa.gov

Region 6 Ombudsman (Contact for Dispute Resolution):

Mr. Arnold Ondarza, 214-665-6790*

E-Mail: ondarza.arnold@epa.gov

***Superfund Region 6 Toll Free Number: 1-800-533-3508**

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)

Project Manager (Contact for Technical Questions):

Mr. Alan Etheredge, 512-239-2139*

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Community Involvement Coordinator (Contact for Community Relations Questions, Bilingual [English/Spanish]):

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E-Mail: jmontema@tnrcc.state.tx.us

***TNRCC Toll Free Number (only within Texas): 1-800-633-9363**

Present Status and Issues

- C The TNRCC commenced the MDI residential yards soil removal and restoration actions in December 1998 and completed those activities in May 1999. The TNRCC identified a total of 86 residential properties that contained contaminated soils at levels which warranted a cleanup action.
- C The EPA joined efforts with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the South Central Laborers AGC and provided an environmental training program, the Superfund Job Training Initiative (SJTI), to community residents. The SJTI, in partnership with stakeholders; state/local governments; and community leaders, such as Make Ready, Search and Houston Works; provided training to nearly 27 citizens living in the community impacted by MDI. The focus of the training was basic construction, lead abatement, asbestos abatement and hazardous materials. The training of all participants concluded on April 1, 1999. The EPA forwarded the names of the graduates of the SJTI to the various EPA (Region 6) contractors notifying them of the availability of trained and certified personnel in the Houston area. These SJTI graduates' names were also forwarded to our State and City of Houston partners.
- C On May 8, 1999, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to several Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) associated with the MDI Superfund Site. In response to the original UAO, the Respondents complying with the Order formed a group ("PRP group") to address the drummed waste removal action.
- C On June 8, 1999, the EPA sent the First Amended UAO to 10 additional PRPs associated with the MDI Superfund Site. These additional parties were added to the UAO in response to information made available to the EPA by other PRPs. This First Amended UAO encourages the recipients wishing to comply with the UAO to coordinate with the PRP Group in addressing this action.

- C In accordance with the UAO, on June 23, 1999 the PRP Group submitted to EPA, for review and approval, a Removal Action Workplan and a Health & Safety Plan for the Removal Action to address the drummed waste abandoned on the Site. The EPA completed its review and the plans were approved. All physical handling of the drummed waste on-site has been completed. The result was the bulk containerizing, sampling/analysis and transport for off-site disposal of all 5,300 drums, associated debris and visually contaminated soils.
- C Effective November 23, 1999, the removal of all of 5,300 drums of waste, visually contaminated soils and associated debris was achieved. The work trailers were demobilized and the Site secured awaiting commencement of the Remedial Investigation Phase to be lead by the TNRCC.
- C On June 30, 1999, the TNRCC formally notified the EPA of its intent to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the EPA to enable them to lead the long-term actions for the MDI/TESCO Site, specifically, Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The TNRCC has submitted to the EPA a grant application for funds to commence the RI/FS. These grant funds were awarded to the TNRCC on 9/24/99. Sampling activities are scheduled to begin in the summer of 2000.

Benefits

- The cleanup of contamination present at the MDI Superfund Site will ensure the protection of human health, welfare and the environment.
- Thirty-six (36) acres are planned to be returned to productive use.